# DRAFT Strategic Vision for ISS Utilization

- The ISS – our human outpost in space – continues to bring nations together for the benefit of life on Earth – and beyond. This world-class orbiting international laboratory supports a continuum of research discoveries from a balanced and diverse mix of advanced scientific and technological research, all of which require the unique environment of space. We can expect research aboard the ISS to address many spheres of endeavor, including, but not necessarily limited to the support of:
  - Basic and applied research in the biological and the physical sciences: The ISS is enabling significant advances in understanding the role that gravity plays in biological and physical systems;
  - Research and testbeds to develop the knowledge, technologies, procedures and protocols necessary to support space exploration: The ISS is serving as an exciting gateway to new frontiers in human space exploration, allowing us to explore the unknown, to understand our world, and to apply that knowledge for the benefit of all;

# DRAFT Strategic Vision for ISS Utilization
**(continued)**

- Commercial research and endeavors: The ISS is enhancing U.S. economic competitiveness and creating new commercial enterprises;
- Space Science and Earth Science research: The ISS, as an observing platform which is routinely maintained and enhanced in response to changing technologies and research capabilities, is complementing our inventory of free flying observatories, all of which serve to enhance our knowledge of the Earth, our Solar System and the Universe;
- Educational endeavors: The ISS serves as a virtual classroom in space to the benefit of educators and students alike, with educators and students actively participating in research conducted on Station.

# DRAFT Strategic Vision for ISS Utilization
**(continued)**

- The specific goals and objectives associated with ISS utilization will be aligned with and responsive to the strategic plans of the sponsors of research aboard the ISS.

- Operations aboard the ISS are conducted in a manner that is responsive to international agreements, efficient in terms of maximizing the laboratory's research potential, and that fully realized the value of having crew aboard to conduct and participate in research.

# DRAFT Strategic Vision for ISS Utilization
**(continued)**

- Investment in advanced technologies, coupled with the planned change out of ISS systems, experiments and experiment support systems is allowing for a timely and predictable progression of capabilities in response to user community needs.

- A clearly defined set of performance metrics which track the ability of the ISS to meet user requirements has been established and is monitored on a regular basis. The appropriate continuous process improvement mechanisms are in place to achieve increased research utilization opportunities, output, and outcome where possible, and to deal with negative trends in a timely manner.